Haunting Oneself

FADE IN:

EXT: AIRPORT LANDING GROUNDS - DAY 1

It is a beautiful sunny day. The sky is as blue as can be. The clouds are white as cotton. And the sun is radiant with its rays of warmth. A plane wurrs into frame. A sea of husband-deprived wives and friends missing friends roar as the plane starts to land. The plane lands and stairs are brought over to door of the plane. The door opens and Veterans come out to the first comforting welcome they have seen in several months. Some years. MIKE steps out. MIKE carries two duffle bags with him. He has a uniform on and buzz cut. He stands out in no way from the other soldiers but the camera focuses on him. MELISSA, MIKE's blonde wife has curly hair and wears a blouse with pink polka dots and red lipstick. She stands with a group of other aging women and men, many of which have some sort of disability. One walks with a cane. Another has autism and is in a wheelchair. Another has glasses.

MELISSA MAYFIELD
Mike! It has been too long.

MIKE MAYFIELD
Melissa, It is very good to see you.

MELISSA runs up to MIKE and kisses him. MIKE drops the two duffle bags when he is almost tackled by MELISSA. MIKE is less enthusiastic for the love than anyone else. The man with a glasses of hair and T-Shirt comes over.

BOB MAYFIELD
HEY HEY HEY! Give the man a chance to breathe.

MELISSA lets go of MIKE with a big smile.

MIKE MAYFIELD
Hey Bob. It's been a long time.

BOB MAYFIELD
Hey Bro, listen, I know those commies may have gotten the better of us, but as far as I'm concerned, you're still a hero.

One of the aging women rolls up the man in the wheelchair.

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NINA MAYFIELD
Oh, I can't believe I am finally seeing my nephew again, how's it been?

MIKE MAYFIELD
Hello Aunt Nina.

NINA MAYFIELD
Look Jimmy, It's your cousin, Say hi to your Cousin Mike, Jimmy

JIMMY looks up from his wheelchair.

JIMMY MAYFIELD
Hello...Mike.

NINA MAYFIELD
He admires you so much. Everyday he would tell me about how much he wished he could be out there with you.

MIKE MAYFIELD
Oh really.

NINA MAYFIELD
Oh yes, you're a hero y'know.

MIKE MAYFIELD
Oh please, I'm no hero.

NINA MAYFIELD
Sure you are!

MELISSA MAYFIELD
You're very brave and we all look up to you.

MIKE MAYFIELD
Thank you. Now I would really like to get home now, so...

MIKE Begins to pick up the duffle bags he was carrying.

BOB MAYFIELD
Now hold on there! Let me carry those bags. It's the least I can do for a Hero!

MELISSA MAYFIELD
Let us take care of you honey, you deserve it for the service you've

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done.
(Whispering)
And when we get home, I'll be sure to provide you with some service.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT: BEDROOM - NIGHT 2

MELISSA is sleeping next to MIKE. The Bedsheets just above her chest. She is sound asleep. MIKE is wide awake. He lies at the end of his bed on his side. He stares out into the hallway full of darkness outside of his room. MIKE closes his eyes to try to fall asleep. There is a creek in the night. MIKE opens his eyes immediately to it. He stares into the darkness, expecting something to be there that wasn't there before.

Vietnamese Child

I want to return something to you.

The voice comes from nowhere

MIKE MAYFIELD
Who's there?!

A blue, glowing ghost of a VIETNAMESE CHILD forms in the darkness and approaches MIKE.

VIETNAMESE CHILD
I want to return something to you.

MIKE sits up on the side of his bed.

MIKE MAYFIELD
Don't come any closer!

The VIETNAMESE CHILD comes right up to MIKE.

VIETNAMESE CHILD
I just want to return something.

MIKE is frozen. The child is shocking to him, but unthreatening. So he remains still, but fearful. The VIETNAMESE CHILD pulls up his shirt. There is a small cylindrical hole in his chest. The VIETNAMESE CHILD puts his fingers into the hole. A close up shot shows in detail how unsettling and gruesome the chest wound is as the child digs his fingers into it. The VIETNAMESE CHILD pulls out a bullet from the chest hole. The VIETNAMESE CHILD places the bullet

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next to MIKE on the bed.

VIETNAMESE CHILD
This is yours. You gave it to me.

MIKE stares at the bullet. He knows it's his. He remembers firing the gun. He looks back at the glowing ghost child.

VIETNAMESE CHILD
Why did you give me a bullet Mike?

MIKE MAYFIELD

I...

VIETNAMESE CHILD
Why did you give me a bullet Mike?

The Ghost of a VIETNAMESE MAN appears.

VIETNAMESE MAN
Why did you give that kid a bullet Mike?

Tears begin to well in MIKE's eye.

MIKE MAYFIELD
I didn't...

The ghost of a VIETNAMESE MOTHER appears

VIETNAMESE MOTHER
Why did you give my son a bullet Mike?

MIKE MAYFIELD
I didn't mean... I didn't mean to...

VIETNAMESE MAN
Was this boy the only kid you gave bullet to?

MIKE MAYFIELD
(stuttering)
No. No. NO.

MIKE stands up from his bed crying. His head in his hands.

VIETNAMESE MAN
Did you give only children bullets Mike?

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MIKE MAYFIELD
I didn't give them bullets.

VIETNAMESE MOTHER
Was this one of your bullets Mike?

The VIETNAMESE MOTHER pulls down apart of her shirt to reveal a bullet wound on her chest.

MIKE MAYFIELD
I didn't give anyone bullets.

MIKE staggers around. He can barely maintain stability in himself.

VIETNAMESE MAN
Why did you give so many people bullets Mike?

VIETNAMESE CHILD
Were they supposed to be presents Mike?

VIETNAMESE MOTHER
Why don't you give your wife a bullet as a present?

MIKE MAYFIELD
I didn't give any-I could never give my- I never gave- I didn't-

A VIETNAMESE SOLDIER appears on MELISSA's side of the bed.

VIETNAMESE SOLDIER
Then what did you do Mike?

MIKE MAYFIELD
I Killed them!

The VIETNAMESE SOLDIER takes a few steps and phase through the bed so he is standing just in front of where Melissa is sleeping.

VIETNAMESE SOLDIER
Why did you kill them Mike!?

MIKE MAYFIELD

SHUT UP!

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VIETNAMESE SOLDIER
Why!?

MIKE MAYFIELD

SHUT UP!

MIKE reaches under his pillow and pulls out a gun he was sleeping with. He then aims the gun at the VIETNAMESE SOLDIER ghost and fires. The ghosts vanish at the sound of the gunshot. Where the VIETNAMESE SOLDIER was once standing now is just simply MELISSA with a bleeding shot wound in her side. MELISSA's eyes break open from the pain. Her head turns slightly to see her husband panting with sweat and still holding the gun. MELISSA's eye water just as she breathes her final breath. MIKE is paralyzed from what he just executed, his face flooded with tears and arms linear with the gun. From outside the house the neighborhood has woken up from the gunshot and a police siren is in the distance. MIKE cripples to the floor and curls into the fetal position next to his bed.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT: VIETNAMESE JUNGLE DAY 3

MIKE is in the fetal position on the ground. Gunfire, explosions and cries for help are all that fill the air. Each boom causing MIKE to flinch. His mouth is dry. MIKE smacks his lips. His lip cracked from lack of hydration. MIKE brings a water bottle to his lip to drink. MIKE kicks his head back to drink the water. The scene ends with an ear-piercing gunshot.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT: MIKES BEDROOM - NIGHT 4

MIKE is dead on the floor. A gun in his mouth and the back of his head everywhere else. The only sound in the house is a banging on the front door.

FADE OUT:

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FADE IN:

EXT: MIKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT 5

A single cop bangs on the door of MIKE MAYFIELD's house.

NEIGHBORHOOD COP

HELLO! PLEASE OPEN UP! WE HAVE REPORTS OF GUNSHOTS, PLEASE OPEN UP!

FADE OUT:

THE END

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